Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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R 092136Z JUN 78 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0709 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 08843

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, WMO
SUBJECT: WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION - FELLOWSHIPS
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

- 1. WMO SYG HAS CIRCULATED DOCUMENT (DOC 53.ADD 3) IN WHICH HE PROPOSES THAT THE EC "MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY" OF USING REGULAR BUDGET FUNDS FOR FELLOWSHIPS TO MEET NEEDS OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.
- 2. ALTHOUGH DOCUMENT WAS SUBMITTED BY SYG, IT IS ASSUMED BY US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT IT WAS INSPIRED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT OF WMO, MR. M. TAHA.
- 3. IN ITS INTRODUCTION, DOCUMENT REFERS TO UNGA RESOLUTION 32/90 ON UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST. PARA 3 OF THIS RESOLUTION INVITES "RELEVANT UN AGENCIES TO CONSIDER INCLUSION, WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE, OF ASSISTANCE FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS".
- 4. IN MENTIONED DOCUMENT, SYG REMINDS EC THAT CONFIDENTIAL.

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SIXTH WMO CONGRESS (1971) AUTHORIZED FUNDS TO PROVIDE FELLOWSHIPS TO REFUGEE STUDENTS. HE NOW ASKS THE EC TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF BROADENING THE INTENT OF SIXTH CONGRESS DECISION TO PERMIT USE OF REGULAR BUDGET FUNDS FOR FELLOWSHIPS TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.

5. IN CONSIDERING THE SYG'S PROPOSAL, IT SHOULD BE

TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DECISION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS HAS HAD LITTLE OR NO PRACTICAL EFFECT, SINCE WMO CAN ONLY PROVIDE FELLOWSHIPS IN METEOROLOGY AND RELATED TECHNICAL FIELDS, WHICH DO NOT RECEIVE HIGH PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BY REFUGEE STUDENTS. THIS MATTER IS ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE NO IMPACT ON ACTUAL USE OF FUNDS. 6. US REPRESENTATIVE IS COORDINATING POSITION WITH CANADIAN, FRG, UK, AND POSSIBLY FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES, QUESTIONING WISDOM AND NECESSITY OF BROADENING THE INTENT OF SIXTH CONGRESS WITH REGARDS TO FELLOWSHIPS TO REFUGEE STUDENTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE NO SPECIFIC NEEDS ON REQUESTS FOR FELLOWSHIPS IN METEOROLOGY BY QUALIFIED REFUGEE STUDENTS AND THAT THERE IS NO PALESTINIAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE.

7. SINCE THIS MATTER IS EXPECTED TO COME UP IN FRIDAY'S AFTERNOON SESSION, THERE IS NO TIME TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE GUIDANCE, AND THIS MESSAGE INTENDED ESSENTIALLY TO INFORM DEPT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND OF LINE US REP INTENDS TO FOLLOW. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 09 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA08843
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780244-0496

Format: TEL From: GENEVA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacoou.tel

Line Count: 84 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 93e4c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 01 aug 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2421291 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION - FELLOWSHIPS FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

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To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93e4c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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